At a Meeting of the *Society for Promoting* CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, Tueſday 4th *Auguſt*, 1747.

AGREED, That Two Thouſand *Copies of the Biſhop of* LONDON's *Letter to the Clergy of his Dioceſe, together with the Catalogue annexed to it, be printed, in order to be diſtributed by the Members of this* SOCIETY.

GOOD BROTHER,

Whitehall, April 3. 1740.

THE Decay of Piety and Religion, and the Increaſe of Sin and Vice, are ſo viſible in our Days, notwithſtanding the Endeavours of the Parochial Clergy to prevent them; that no additional Expedients ought to be omitted, which may help, in any Meaſure, to preſerve among our People a Senſe of Duty, and a Spirit of Devotion.

ONE of theſe Expedients is, the putting into their Hands, as Occaſion ſhall be found, ſome ſhort and plain Tracts upon Religious Subjects; ſuch as being ſhort, they are like to read; or may eaſily procure to be read to them; and being alſo plain, they cannot fail of underſtanding; and moreover, being always at hand, and read over often, they will naturally make a *deeper Impreſſion* upon their Minds, than Inſtructions and Admonitions, either from the Pulpit, or by word of Mouth.

IT was with this View, that ſeveral Biſhops, Clergy-men, and other ſerious Perſons among the Laity, did long ſince form themſelves into a Society, for printing and diſperſing ſuch practical Tracts, in great Numbers. And for the diſperſing them more effectually, they have from time to time admitted, and continue to admit, ſeveral Perſons in all Parts of the Kingdom, whom they call CORRESPONDING MEMBERS; and who are entitled to have a Supply of them, to be diſpoſed of among ſuch of the neighbouring Clergy or Laity, as deſire them; the Bound Books, mentioned in this and the next Page, at the prime Coſt in *Quires*, the Society being at the Charge of Binding; and the Stitch'd Books, at one *half* of what is ſet down, as the prime Coſt of each; the other half of the Charge being born by the ſtanding Subſcriptions of the Members of the Society, and by other occaſional Benefactions. And the Privilege of ſending for and receiving thoſe Books and ſmall Tracts on the Terms before mentioned, is common to all the CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, as ſuch, whether they be SUBSCRIBERS or not; on Account of the Trouble they are content to take, in anſwering the great Ends of the Society, by conveying their Tracts into many Hands, and on the ſame eaſy Terms; without any Advantage to themſelves, beſides the Pleaſure of doing Good.

THIS Society has ſubſiſted many Years, under the Name of the *Society for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge*. And as, by their Endeavours in that Way, great Good has been already done to Religion, ſo much more would probably be done, if the Deſign, and their Methods of carrying it on, were more generally underſtood and attended to. And becauſe ſome of the Clergy may not know that there is ſuch a Society, and many others may be unacquainted with the true End and Manner of it; I deſire that thoſe in your Neighbourhood may have this Account of it communicated to them, as you have Opportunity. At the ſame time it is left to every one's Judgment, how far he has *Occaſion* within his own Cure, for ſuch Aſſiſtances as theſe, to co-operate with his own Paſtoral Labours.

I AM not without Hope, that when this Method of doing Service to Religion is known and conſidered; Perſons who are of Ability, both among the Clergy and Laity, will be diſpoſed to become *Subſcribing Members*, or occaſional Contributors; for the better Support of the Society in carrying on the Work, and to make the good Effects of it more and more extenſive. And ſo, commending you and your Labours to the Bleſſing of God,

I remain,

SIR,

Your faithful Friend and Brother,

EDM. LONDON.

A Catalogue of Books *and ſmall* Tracts, *which are charitably diſtributed by the* SOCIETY for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge, *on the Terms above-mentioned; and may be had by any Subſcribing or Correſponding Member.*

I.

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